

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Hampton Police Station – 2nd Floor Training Room
7:00 PM**

January 26, 2012

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District
Deputy Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large

Absent: Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Geannina Guzman-Scanlan--Hampton Beach Village District
Rick Griffin, Town Selectmen
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)

Other: James Steffen – Town Planner
Laurie Olivier- Secretary

1. Introduction of Commissioners

Mr. Nyhan introduced the members and noted the members missing due to the inclement weather.

2. Public Comment Session – related to agenda items

Mr. Charles Preston appeared. He discussed the grant application. If it is pursued (the Park and Ride), there should be a destination at the Beach. The best location would be in a commercial district. Opposite the Hampton Police Department is the proposed location of a multi-million building. He showed flooding pictures and stated on January 9th of this year it was brought to the Selectmen's attention. Driving through salt water with the fire trucks was discussed. The flooding needs to stop. Emergency vehicles should not be going through the salt water flooding. Buses could come from the new Park and Ride and access the beach via Brown Avenue. Any new fire station should not be built in a flood zone. He discussed how all surfaces should not be sealed. He suggested that the Town build a transportation depot.

Mr. Preston asked if there are any meetings on DRED and the Town work. He discussed parking meters. Meter enforcement can make or break Hampton Beach. He feels it's been broken. Revenue of meters and DRED being happy to share figures was mentioned. He wants to see the income from paid violations as well as income. He wants DRED to recognize the school year. He wants the community and true friends to be on the watch to protect the beach area.

Mr. Nyhan asked if the pictures were taken prior to the flaps and Mr. Preston stated they were. Mr. Preston also stated that on January 9th, the Board of Selectmen thought it was corrected. After that date, it was still flooded. Mr. Nyhan asked Mr. Preston if he feels there is one particular area at the Beach where the fire station could go. Mr. Preston stated the State Park (down by the bridge) as there is a difference of 5' in elevation. He mentioned across the street from the Casino as well.

The Memorandum of Agreement will be discussed by Mr. Nyhan tonight as well as parking meters later in the meeting.

3. Review & approval of 12/15/11 Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Sawyer to approve the December 15, 2011 Minutes.

SECOND by Mr. Rage.

VOTE: 5 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Appointments –

Mr. Nyhan reiterated that due to the weather coming in from the West, he excused Bill Watson from the DOT and Mike Housman from DRED. They live in the Concord area and it's snowing badly there and icy. He has updates from both of them and he will discuss them later in the meeting.

1. None

Chairman's Report

1. TSCP Grant Application - Update

Mr. Nyhan stated that the Commission has submitted an application. Mr. Nyhan thanked everyone for getting support letters out. As of today, the \$300,000 grant was noticed as the #1 priority under the DOT. There were 4 to 5 applications and we were ranked #1. We received a wide variety of support from Senators, the Chamber, RPC, Village District, etc. Commissioner Bald from DRED sent a letter, as well as the Governor. There was a combined letter from two United States Senators and United States Congressman and all three stated they will make personal calls to Federal Highway. Mr. Watson informed Mr. Nyhan that they are in the review state and we will hear sometime in March. Mr. Nyhan has started looking into vendors for transportation consulting. If we get the grant, we will be ready to get this application grant going. There will be a Transportation Advisory Committee. The HBAC will be the major sponsor.

2. HBAC recent letters of support

Mr. Nyhan discussed non-opposition on the letters of support. Senator Bob O'Dell, in Concord was sent a letter regarding Senate Bill 298 regarding a lifeguard tower and the intention to name the life guard station on the Beach – Chief James Donahue Life Guard Station. It was recorded in the NH Senate record this month.

Another letter forwarded was a public support letter to the *Letter to the Editor* of the Hampton Union about the warrant article regarding the North Hampton State Park project (sewage). We have received support from the Hampton Chamber of Commerce and Senator Stiles. Mr. Nyhan also spoke at a public hearing indicating our support for the warrant article. It would be an environmental disaster with compost going into the ocean that would jeopardize our five-star beach quality and environment.

3. HBAC update in 2012 State Park Stage Gala Opening

Mr. Nyhan had a meeting with DRED earlier this month to discuss funding and moving money that we would get through donations. They have looked into it and stated we can, under the RSAs. DRED recommended we look for an alternative way of moving money in and out of the Commission. State policies and procedures were discussed. Anything paid over \$1,000 would have to go up through bureaucratic chain of command and that could delay payment. We are now going to look for other avenues. The Village District can do it, but it would need to happen ASAP per Mr. Rage. Mr. Nyhan wants the check written to the HBAC and to have a separate account opened up. The Commission needs to authorize the money coming in and money going out. Mr. Nyhan stated if we are able to raise funds for the gala, if there's money left over, we want it to be in the hands of the Beach Commission and nowhere else. Mr. Bob Preston asked if our Commission is authorized. Mr. Nyhan thinks we are, but it may need a more formal structure. Mr. Rage stated for the Precinct if it's budgeted in, it has to be budgeted out. Mr. McMahon asked if the Precinct had trouble in the past. There has to be a paper trail. He needs to find an alternative way to move money in and out. Mr. Preston said if we can't use the Beach, Town or State. We can talk to the Chamber. The Experience Hampton Group could also help. Mr. Rage said they could probably do it, but it could be a nightmare. On a related issue, Mr. Nyhan met with Tim Noonan from Unitil and they could be a corporate ambassador to the Commission. If we could get 10 or 15 corporation to donate, it would be a good fund to start. Corporate supporters would be donating money for the new Hampton Beach. The two-day gala is part of the function. If money is left over, it could be for improvements. This would get the corporate community behind us.

Mr. Sawyer agrees with Mr. Preston regarding the Precinct and the Town and it has to be taken into consideration if the vote at the Town meeting needs to be had in order to expend funds. That could put us off for a year. Being in a time crunch was reiterated. DRED is putting together marketing packets. We need to get money and many corporations are doing budgets now so we need to do this ASAP. Mr. Nyhan will check out Explore Hampton.

Mr. Nyhan met with Fred Schaake, Jr. to explore entertainment. He will help look at entertainment groups or entertainers to be the big catch for Saturday night. Mr. Schaake will have a list in a couple of weeks with four to six groups/entertainers that may be willing to come to Hampton Beach for the first or second Saturday in June.

Glenn French has also been communicating with Topsham Blues. They start working on their schedule on February 1st. We need to lock in a weekend and major entertainer.

Old Business

1. State Park Project Update (Housman)

Mr. Housman was excused, but Mr. Nyhan received updates.

a. DRED & Town MOA update

DRED and the Town have had meetings and he feels they were successful. Draft #2 is in the hands of the Town and DRED is waiting for a response regarding the Memorandum of Agreement. He was hoping Mr. Griffin would be attending tonight for an update. As soon as he hears back, he will be in touch with the Commission.

b. Parking meter increase recommendation status

Earlier this month DRED and Commissioner Bald put a request out to HBAC to discuss the Finance Committee (Concord) regarding fees and rate changes. It's outside of DRED. Mike Housman sent information to everyone regarding the modest increase of parking fees through the summer. They may expand meter running time in the spring (starting in April) and fall (ending in October). Running meters year round was discussed. Mr. Nyhan received good responses in his opinion. Some opposition was received about extending meter fees into the winter months. Having a 12-month meter going throughout the Beach was discussed. DRED did get approval to increase the rates and they got approval to increase year round. DRED decided today that rates will be increased during summer season (\$1.50 to \$2.00/hour). They are expanding the season with adding April and October and keep the meters running during those months at \$1.00 an hour. They have decided not to charge for parking in the winter months; November, December, January, February and March. Those months general parking would open.

Mr. Bob Preston stated last October the beach filled up on a beautiful day. There aren't many days that much money would be made in October. The idea of ticketing someone enjoying a nice day does not seem right. Tourists aren't there on the nice days down the beach; it's the locals. Mr. Nyhan will pass that on. Mr. Nyhan discussed incorporating that along with the Memorandum of Agreement, i.e. residents to use their Town resident parking sticker to not be ticketed. This would be an agreement between the Town and DRED.

Mr. Rage discussed there is plenty of parking on side streets and he's not sure if the resident stickers would make a difference.

Mr. McMahon discussed the distribution of revenue. He asked if there would be a change proportionately with Hampton bringing in more revenue. Senator Stiles has in the works that \$375,000 in meter State park revenue would stay in the Hampton Beach area for debt services.

2. Request to Review – Proposed plans – Old Surf Hotel land

Mr. Preston spoke with Mr. McKeon. Mr. McKeon will show him/Commission what they want to do. Treating everyone the same with future projects is the goal. He will be happy to speak to Commission.

Mr. McMahon discussed the developer wanting a permanent parking lot and the Planning Board does not want that. It will be a temporary lot and they will come back every year.

Mr. Nyhan asked about their stage #2 and car coverage. The Planning Board only requires parking for residential uses. Commercial uses do not have a parking requirement. Two spaces per unit are required. Hotels are different. Residential parking spaces have to be on site per Mr. Steffen.

3. DOT Project Updates (Watson)

Mr. Nyhan spoke with Bill Watson who could not attend due to the weather.

4.

a. Little Jack's drainage update

Mr. Nyhan stated that Mr. Watson has Doug DePorter working on this. Everything is in place. Engineering site work has been done.

b. DOT and Town sidewalk discussions update

Mr. Nyhan stated that the DOT has asked the Town for further discussion. Their position is and will continue to be that they will not maintain sidewalks adjacent to State roads. The Town has indicated that they do not, at this point, want to maintain the sidewalks. This is the A-Block only they are referring to at this point. The DOT wanted the Town to take care of maintenance. The Board of Selectmen decided to put in an advisory warrant article asking residents of Hampton if they want the Town to maintain the sidewalks at Hampton Beach. The warrant articles will be completed by tomorrow or the 30th. There will be an advisory warrant article put in place. The Town wants to delay any further discussions until they can work with the DOT on the Memorandum of Agreement. The Town wants the DOT and Town to stop talking about this issue until DRED has completed its MOA.

Mr. Rage asked what the maintenance is. He asked the Town that question and did not get an answer. He asked why it has to be plowed as it never has been plowed before. Mr. Nyhan stated the DOT defined maintenance as whatever the Town decides to be maintenance. Mr. Rage asked about replacement. Mr. Nyhan does not know that answer.

Mr. Nyhan discussed the DOT project at end of Winnacunnet Road and Route One. The Town will maintain those sidewalks.

Mr. Sawyer stated Route One in Hampton/Lafayette Road is maintained by the Town. Plowing on 1A is done by the State. Mr. Nyhan said both organizations need to come together and work this out. Mr. Nyhan stated he does not want to lose grant money due to the discrepancy of who is in charge of the sidewalks. Mr. McMahon stated if the sidewalks get repaired by the State, then maybe the Town could take over from there. Drainage being done with sidewalks is a common issue. Mr. Rage stated the sidewalks are pretty much level with the road. Mr. Nyhan stated the State/DOT would be on board with doing new drainage, sidewalks, etc. on Ocean Boulevard. Once it's constructed, Hampton needs to maintain it.

c. Crimeline – signage along the beach re: graffiti (Sawyer)

Mr. Sawyer asked to wait after the Penguin Plunge to figure out where signs should be placed for approval.

5. Commissioner project updates

Mr. Rage discussed using Precinct money for lighting, for A and B Street blocks. Depending on money, four streets may be able to be done.

Mr. Nyhan stated the \$470,000.00 for sewage left over by the Town's infrastructure project will be spent on sewage issues only, nothing else. That money would not be moved. Out of seven streets needing attention, they will try to do two or three streets.

6. Other Old Business

New Business

1. DRED – Economic Development – Request for presentation

Mr. Nyhan met last week with Mr. Housman and Christine Davis. She works for DRED in the Economic Development area. He has asked Christine to come to one of our meetings and she was receptive. He would like to invite other local officials. There are two staff members who take calls from investors, etc. who are looking to buy and develop property in NH. Hampton is not even on the radar screen. She will help us to get into a better relationship and Mr. Nyhan told her the Commission will present to her a presentation of properties in Hampton that we would like to have on their radar screen for future development.

2. 2012 Town warrants impacting the Hampton Beach area

Mr. Nyhan knows of four or five warrant articles he believes need attention to either endorse or oppose. He is requesting that the February meeting be held at the Town Hall. It can be live and not taped. One Article is the North Hampton State Beach and the other Article is the Mounted Patrol and the third is we need to discuss the Warrant Article of the Fire Station down the Beach and pumping station. The Director of Public Works spoke recently and said if the pumping station broke down in July, Hampton Beach would have to close down. There are issues that we need to be educated on. Maybe getting Chief Silver to attend/speak would be important.

3. Other New Business

Mr. Rage extended condolences to Reverend Windemiller's family, as did Mr. Bob Preston.

Mr. Sawyer reminded everyone beginning next month there is training so the Police Station will not be available. We will need another location for our March and April meetings.

Mr. Sawyer reminded everyone that on February 4th and 5th the Hampton Beach Penguin Plunge is taking place as well as the High School plunge. Mr. Nyhan asked Mr. Sawyer if DRED and the Town are trying to work out details on this event in the MOA. Mr. Sawyer stated the MOA, he believes, is something the Town works exclusively on. The Penguin Plunge is a non-profit organization. All fees should be the same as 2011.

Adjourn

MOVED by Mr. Sawyer to adjourn.

SECOND by Mr. Preston.

VOTE: 5 – 0 – 0

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Laurie Olivier
Secretary